

Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute: Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. WAIVER OF CERTAIN NATURALIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NGUYEN QUY AN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the inability of Nguyen Quy An to meet the requirements of section 316 of the Immigration and Nationality Act that relate to having the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, and residence and physical presence in the United States, if otherwise qualified he shall be considered eligible for naturalization and, upon filing an application for naturalization and being administered the oath of renunciation and allegiance pursuant to section 337 of such Act, shall be naturalized as a citizen of the United States.

(b) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEE.—Subsection (a) shall apply only if the application for naturalization is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we are often called upon to enact sweeping legislation that will have a substantial impact on millions of people. However, I think most of us realize that many times we can take smaller, more limited actions that will have an enormous effect on the lives of only a few. Often, it is these actions that are most fulfilling and most meaningful.

Today, I am hopeful that the House will pass legislation that exemplifies such an endeavor, and which also honors a man whose bravery saved the lives of American servicemen, and cost him dearly in his service to our country. This bill, H.R. 1087, will secure the immigration status of Major Nguyen Quy An by allowing him to apply for U.S. citizenship without waiting an additional 5 years. However, in actuality I believe it is we who would be honored by the naturalization of this courageous man.

Major An is a genuine hero who, as a pilot in South Vietnam's elite "King Bee" helicopter group, flew numerous combat missions in support of U.S. troops during the Vietnam war. In one particularly notable act of heroism, he risked his own life in order to save the lives of four American servicemen. On January 17, 1969, he led a combined American-South Vietnamese flight to insert American Special Forces troops deep into an enemy-held, sniper-infested jungle along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos. After one of the U.S. Army helicopters in the flight was hit by enemy fire, Major An maneuvered his ship to a position next to his American comrades and led them to a clearing in the jungle. With complete disregard for his own safety, and under incessant, intense enemy fire, he landed his helicopter next to the crippled American ship and waited for the four crew members to make their way to him.

Major An was cited for the Silver Star and the U.S. Government awarded him the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism in combat

for his courage in this incident. He later lost his arms when he was severely burned after his helicopter was downed in a similar U.S. combat rescue mission.

Our Government, recognizing the heroism and service that he has given to the United States, granted Major An "humanitarian parole" so that he and his daughter could come to the United States in 1994. They were granted a 1-year extension of their humanitarian visas last December, but H.R. 1087 would allow Major An to quickly become an American citizen, and to promptly file for his daughter to become a permanent U.S. resident. A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate by Senator BENNETT JOHNSTON and has been cosponsored by former Senator Dole, as well as Senators BENNETT, HATFIELD, NICKLES, SHELBY, SPECTER, BROWN, and INOUE. It is my understanding that the Senate is prepared to pass our bill quickly once we send it to them.

Without passage of this bill, Major An will not be able to resolve his immigration status and could ultimately be forced to return to Vietnam where he would face an uncertain future. Even if he is allowed to remain here, the uncertainty of his status prevents him from obtaining employment, and creates terrible concern and anguish for him and his daughter.

Private bills are certainly an extreme measure, and should be given close scrutiny. However, in this case, I believe a private bill is clearly warranted. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has found that, other than enactment of this bill, Major An and his daughter have no other options. The House Judiciary Committee unanimously approved this measure by voice vote.

This country owes Major An a debt of gratitude. He is a decorated war veteran who risked his own life to save the lives of four American servicemen, and lost his arms during a U.S. combat mission. The least that our country can do to honor his service to America is to secure his place here in America, and to help him to quickly become a citizen of his adopted country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill for the relief of Nguyen Quy An."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GAIL E. DOBERT

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 4025) for the relief of the estate of Gail E. Dobert.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

COMMENDING OPERATION SAIL

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 64) to commend Oper-

ation Sail for its advancement of brotherhood among nations, its continuing commemoration of the history of the United States, and its nurturing of young cadets through training in seamanship, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Ms. DELAURO. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] for an explanation of the legislation.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this resolution commends Operation Sail for its advancement of international cooperation among nations, for its continuing commemoration of the history of the United States and its contribution to the training of young cadets in the skills of seamanship.

The bill encourages all Americans and citizens of the world to join in the celebration of the 224th birthday of the United States.

Equally important, it encourages continued American participation in the international tall ship community and in tall ship events across the United States and the world.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my Republican colleague's request to pass Senate Joint Resolution 64 by unanimous consent request. Senate Joint Resolution 64 is a bipartisan resolution honoring the Operation Sail Organization and OpSail 2000, an international gathering of tall ships that will take place in New York Harbor to celebrate the 224th birthday of the United States and to welcome the new millennium.

This glorious event follows the tradition of the previous OpSail events: OpSail '76 which celebrated the bicentennial of the Nation; OpSail '86 which celebrated the centennial of the Statue of Liberty; and, OpSail '92 which celebrated the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of North America. Operation Sail has worked in cooperation with every President of the United States since John F. Kennedy, and all OpSail events have been endorsed by the President of the United States at that time.

OpSail 2000 is expected to be the largest gathering of tall ships in history, and it will foster international good will and the advancement of brotherhood among nations. In addition, OpSail 2000 will showcase the beautiful Connecticut coast of the Long Island Sound for all the world to see. We look forward to this exciting even of which all Americans can be proud.

Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. SHAYS].

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, just to add my voice to this resolution, it is truly bipartisan, Mr. DODD and Mr. D'AMATO in the Senate and others, and just to say that this is an exciting opportunity for this country.

Operation Sail expects the largest gathering of tall sailing ships ever to be assembled, and I thank my colleague from New York for helping to bring this out.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate joint resolution, as follows:

S.J. RES. 64

Whereas Operation Sail is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to building good will among nations and encouraging international camaraderie;

Whereas Operation Sail has represented and promoted the United States of America in the international tall ship community since 1964, organizing and participating in numerous tall ship events across the United States and around the world;

Whereas Operation Sail has worked in partnership with every American President since President John F. Kennedy;

Whereas Operation Sail has established a great tradition of celebrating major events and milestones in United States history with a gathering of the world's tall ships, and will continue this great tradition with a gathering of ships in New York Harbor, called OpSail 2000, to celebrate the 224th birthday of the United States of America and to welcome the new millennium;

Whereas President Clinton has endorsed OpSail 2000, as Presidents Kennedy, Carter, Reagan, and Bush have endorsed Operation Sail in previous endeavors;

Whereas OpSail 2000 promises to be the largest gathering in history of tall ships and other majestic vessels like those that have sailed the ocean for centuries;

Whereas in conjunction with OpSail 2000, the United States Navy will conduct an International Naval Review; and

Whereas the International Naval Review will include a naval aircraft carrier as a symbol of the international good will of the United States of America: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That—

(1) Operation Sail is commended for its advancement of brotherhood among nations, its continuing commemoration of the history of the United States, and its nurturing of young cadets through training in seamanship;

(2) all Americans and citizens of nations around the world are encouraged to join in the celebration of the 224th birthday of the United States of America and the international camaraderie that Operation Sail and the International Naval Review will foster; and

(3) Operation Sail is encouraged to continue into the next millennium to represent and promote the United States of America in the international tall ship community, and to continue organizing and participating in tall ship events across the United States and around the world.

The Senate joint resolution was ordered to be read a third time, was read a third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on Senate Joint Resolution 64.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

OMNIBUS CIVIL SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 1996

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of the bill (H.R. 3841), to amend the civil service laws of the United States, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

Mr. MORAN. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA], the subcommittee chairman, to explain the changes in the bill.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House voted on this legislation. Although a majority of the House voted for the bill, we fell short of the two-thirds required to suspend the rules and pass this legislation. Unfortunately the controversy centered on section 201 of that legislation and that version which we have deleted in this amendment. Under that section, the current rules on reduction in force would have been changed to give greater weight to job performance in determining which employees are retained. It would have been easier for the agencies, in fact, to keep their best employees when they downsize. Taxpayers and talented, conscientious Federal employees, I believe, would have benefited from this change. However, yesterday, Mr. Speaker, on this floor we did not get the two-thirds necessary to pass that provision.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday on the floor, the distinguished gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA], the distinguished gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN], the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF], and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS] all spoke eloquently of the benefits to Federal employees contained in this legislation. They explained how its provisions, many of which they authored, would have softened the impact of Federal Government downsizing. I thank them for their support yesterday and for their honest efforts on behalf of our hardworking Federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, I have discussed this matter with these distinguished Members and others, and I know how hard they all work to provide these important protections to our Federal employees who are, in fact, caught up in downsizing. I am not willing to allow any special interests to frustrate their work or to prevent this House from providing those protections to all Federal employees on a bipartisan basis. That is why I brought this version of the bill forward to the floor today, and I hope that again in this fashion that

we can pass this in unanimous consent. I thank the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN], the ranking member of our subcommittee, for his leadership, and others.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] for explaining the change that he has made from the bill that we brought up yesterday and that failed to get the two-thirds majority necessary.

I also particularly want to thank them for bringing the bill back today without that controversial provision which prevented us from being able to move it on to the Senate yesterday.

We have an opportunity today to enact legislation that will have a very positive impact upon the lives of our Nation's civil servants. As I said yesterday, this legislation is the culmination of the work of the Subcommittee on Civil Service over the past 6 months. It contains important provisions that provide needed benefits for Federal Employees. For example, the bill contains provisions, originally offered by the administration, that improve the agencies' management flexibility through a demonstration projects program and individual agencies can choose to participate in and determine what types of flexibilities enhance program performance.

The bill provides a number of provisions designed to help employees undergoing reductions in force. These provisions allow an employee to continue to participate in the government life insurance programs provided that they pay both the employer and employee contribution. It would allow an employee who loses their job due to a reduction in force to continue to participate in the Federal employee health benefits program for 18 months with the Federal share being paid. It also establishes a priority placement program in education assistance grants to help displaced Federal employees improve their competitiveness in the job market through greater education.

The provision with which a majority of Democrats disagree has been deleted from this draft. With section 201 removed, this legislation is supported by the gentlewoman from Illinois [Mrs. COLLINS], the ranking member; by the gentlewoman from Florida [Mrs. MEEK] and all the Federal employee unions. That should get the Democratic support that we were looking for, and I hope we can quickly pass this legislation and send it over to the Senate for their immediate consideration.

Further reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA].

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, we are back today to reconsider a bill to improve our Civil Service system and help Federal employees cope with downsizing. This is the same bill that we considered yesterday, except without section 201, a controversial provision to enhance performance management. This provision should have been